



**Parks and Recreation Committee
Regular Meeting
Minutes, August 15, 2016; 4:30 PM
Council Chambers**

ITEM 1

CALL TO ORDER: 4:32 PM – The meeting was called to order by Committee Liaison Public Works Director Chip Reeves. Committee members present were Jeff Dobbs, Greg Veilleux, Eric Ankrom, John Kelly and Tommy Parham. Another in attendance was Shawn Keeley of the Friends of Acadia.

ITEM 2

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: As the first order of business for this new term year, Mr. Reeves opened the floor to nominations for Committee Chair:

Mr. Ankrom, with second by Mr. Veilleux, nominated Jeff Dobbs as Committee Chair; motion passed (3-0).

Chair Dobbs thereby took order of the meeting and continued to receive nominations for officers:

Mr. Veilleux, with second by Mr. Parham, nominated John Kelly as Committee Vice Chair; motion passed (4-0).

Mr. Parham, with second by Mr. Veilleux, nominated Mr. Ankrom as Committee Secretary; motion passed (3-0).

ITEM 3

A. Excused Absence(s): None.

ITEM 4

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Veilleux moved, with second by Mr. Ankrom, to approve the Agenda; motion passed (4-0).

ITEM 5

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of July 18, 2016. Mr. Veilleux moved, with second by Mr. Ankrom, to approve the Minutes; motion passed (4-0).

**ITEM 6
REGULAR BUSINESS**

A. Welcome to New Committee Member Thomas (“Tommy”) Parham, MDI YMCA Executive Director.

Newly appointed Committee member Tommy Parham was welcomed to the group. His initial term will expire July 31, 2019, although the Boards and Committees ordinance was amended August 4, 2015, by Town Council to designate a YMCA representative to this Committee. With the addition of Mr. Parham, this Committee is fully seated.

B. Request from the Friends of Acadia to Hold Climate Ride Northeast at the Athletic Field from 2:00 PM to 2:30 PM on Wednesday, September 7, 2016, and from 6:30 AM to 9:30 AM on Thursday, September 8, 2016.

Mr. Keeley represented the applicant in support of its application. The application fee and insurance liability certificate have been received. He explained that he has a peripheral involvement as a local representative. He has participated in past rides. The event follows the same game plan as that held in 2015. This year there are 60 participants registered; 2015 had over 100. Field #3 of the Athletic Field would be used for the arrival site and to set up bike racks, tables, snacks and to conduct safety talks. The bike route will leave via Park Street, Glen Mary Road and continue to Eagle Lake Road. Riders would be vacated from the area around 9:30 AM on September 8. Any Acadia National Park Loop Road riding would be independently by individuals. The permittee will need to coordinate with the Police Department.

Chair Dobbs waived the Findings of Fact review because this is a repeat event. Mr. Ankrom said there had been no problems with the 2015 event. Mr. Ankrom moved, with second by Mr. Veilleux, to approve the application; motion passed (4-0).

[For clarity to these Minutes, a voting Committee member arrived at this point in the meeting.]

C. Grant Park Improvement Project: Final Design Approval.

Chair Dobbs described the Town parks for new Committee member Mr. Parham. An Atlantic Landscape Construction updated landscape plan, dated August 9, 2016, that incorporates Committee revisions to date, along with plant prints and descriptions were

provided for review. Mr. Reeves highlighted changes since the prior plan review:

- Screening at the wastewater Albert Meadow pump station.
- Picnic area
- Incorporation of a turn-around area
- No lighting added per Committee decision

Included for the project bid, but not depicted on the plan:

- Water main extension and new long service; abutting properties have long services which will come off this.
- Irrigation system with 20 zones, which includes bubblers in the plantings.
- Rebuild of lower Albert Meadow after the water service is constructed. (The cost for this is included in this project, just as it would be for a private property that was doing similar work.)

Mr. Reeves has consulted with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection regarding the Permit by Rule process for the project. The tentative bid schedule is for January 2017 with the construction in the spring. The bid would be set up so that options could be removed.

Mr. Reeves requested confirmation of Committee preference regarding stone seating. Use of a natural looking stone (not a finished granite estimated at \$80,000), such as that offered by Freshwater Stone, would be appropriate, although stone seating is expensive to size and shape. The rise would be 1½ feet. The bid request would have to include specification on this feature with pictures provided as a guide. He said that benches near the water are drawn as an arch (a specialty item). The same effect could be achieved with straight benches. In comparison, the Iron Horse six-foot redwood benches in the Village Green cost \$1,800 each (shipping cost is high) and were rehabilitated three years ago. Eight- and ten-foot benches are available. Mr. Kelly remarked that strangers do not tend to sit together on a six-foot bench. Mr. Veilleux noted that a bench without a back offers flexibility to allow users to sit in either view direction. The bench layout could be creatively situated. Chair Dobbs prefers having the comfort of a bench back and said the water seating should be more compact and intimate.

The overall project will require more maintenance (i.e., plantings). The first year of maintenance would fall to the project contractor. Ongoing work would be covered under the planter contract in the operational budget. The rugosa roses behind benches and at the parking lot side of the park would be maintained at a low height. Also included would be the removal and reset of curbing at the parking lot.

Mr. Kelly inquired about any conversation regarding property access to the Balance Rock Inn from Grant Park. Mr. Reeves responded that the distance between the existing fence and the Inn is approximately ten feet. Habits may have to change. The six-foot broad walk would deter vehicles.

Mr. Reeves recommended that the Committee approve the plan design elements to the Town Council. He will work with Town Manager Cornell Knight on the bid structure and ways to fund the project that will avoid affecting rate payers. This would be competitively bid and not a design bid with Atlantic Landscape Construction, which has donated the design work thus far, staying clear of pricing. Chair Dobbs will present the plan to Council at its September 6, 2016, meeting.

Mr. Veilleux moved, with second by Mr. Kelly to approve the Grant Park design and forward it to Council for approval at the September 2016 meeting; motion passed (5-0).

D. Other Discussion.

- Skatepark: Harold MacQuinn, Inc. will be preloading at the skatepark site. Drainage material and piping will be laid, and additional material applied. The base will be four feet below surface and three to four feet above.

ITEM 7
NEXT MEETING DATE
September 19, 2016

ITEM 5
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 5:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Banis
Recording Secretary